Address

Dr. H. F. Hance,
H. B. M. Vice Consul,
Whampoa,
China.

or

Care of J. M. D'Almada, Esq.
Col: Secy's: Office,
Hongkong.

British Vice Consulate,
Whampoa, 25. Nov: 1861.

My dear Dr. Gray,

The last letter I got from you was received by me on the 8th October 1859. It was accompanied by a small set of plants, comprising some very interesting Carices. I had written to you on the 10th August, and on the 19th Decr: I again wrote sending you also per "Cossack" a packet of plants. On the 19th January 1860 I again wrote to you (the letter being posted by a relative in England) at very great length. (6 or 7 sheets of paper, I think) but have not had a single line or acknowledgement from you since the date I mentioned above, so am apprehensive the extreme prolixity of my last letter may have upset you.

A fine large iron vessel the "Haddington" belonging to the P. & O. mail Co. has been just taken up by an American from here to convey a cargo of tea to New York, and I have intrusted to the care of the Commander, who is a friend, a packet containing a con-

siderable set of plants, some ordinary, some (I hope) interesting, with which I trust you will be satisfied. The Captain has undertaken to send them to you. You will find I believe a few novelties and rarities. Should Mr. Wright be in your neighborhood pray offer him my very kind remembrances. I fear the unhappy convulsions which now distract the States must act very prejudicially on scientific pursuits, but I devoutly hope we may soon hear of their termination. If you have still leisure and opportunity, I should be most glad to hear from you. I have derived the greatest benefit and information from your splendid review of Wright's Japan collections. Should you be able to send me at any time additions to my herbm. they will of course be very acceptable. To a great extent through your liberality, I possess a large portion of the ordinary U.S. plants, but a great number of the grasses & a few (already indicated in my last letter) of the Carices are still desiderata. If you have duplicates of any Carices from the extreme South not in your manual - or from other countries - save the most common - they would be most welcome - as I greatly prize the genus, and I may say the same of ferns, for instance Trichomanes Petersii, Asplenium pinnatifidum & a number of Californian ones particularly the Pellaeae & Polypodia, or Caban ones. I am obliged to write this very hurriedly, for I am working against time, and have not yet been able to close your packet.

I am,

My dear Dr. Gray,

Yours very sincerely

H. F. Hance

Over.